

NATIONAL EPA-TRIBAL SCIENCE COUNCIL

Conference Call Roll Call and Key Discussion Points Monday, February 27, 2017 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. EST

Roll Call

Tribal Caucus

- ☐ Region 1: Theo Willis (Passamaquoddy Tribe at Pleasant Point)
- ☐ Region 1 *Alternate*: Trevor White (Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indian Township)
- ☒ Region 2: Neil Patterson (Tuscarora Nation)
- ☐ Region 4: Katie Tiger (Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians)
- ☒ Region 5: Jeffrey Mears (Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin)
- ☒ Region 6: Curtis Munoz (Kiowa Tribe)
- ☒ Region 7: Carol Kriebs (Sac and Fox Nation)
- ☒ Region 8: Mike Durglo (Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes)
- ☐ Region 8 *Alternate*: Scott Clow (Ute Mountain Ute Tribe)
- ☒ Region 9: Carley Whitecrane (Karuk Tribe)
- ☐ Region 9 *Alternate*: Javier Silva (Sherwood Valley Tribal Environmental Program)
- ☐ Region 10: Lee Juan Tyler (Shoshone Bannock Tribes)
- ☒ Region 10 *Alternate*: Ladd Edmo (Shoshone Bannock Tribes)
- ☐ Region 10 (Alaska): Orville Huntington (Tanana Chiefs Conference)

EPA Caucus

- ☒ Region 1: Robert Hillger
- ☒ Region 2: Kai Tang
- ☐ Region 4: Dawn Taylor
- ☐ Region 5: Luke Hullinger
- ☐ Region 5 *Alternate*: Carole Braverman
- ☐ Region 6: TBD
- ☒ Region 7: Amber Tilley
- ☐ Region 8: TBD
- ☒ Region 9: Destinee Cooper
- ☒ Region 10: Lon Kissinger
- ☒ AIEO: Mary Powell
- ☒ OAR: Lesley Jantarasami
- ☐ OCHP: Ted Coopwood
- ☒ OCSP: Karen Hamernik
- ☐ OEI: Beth Jackson
- ☒ OLEM: David Charters
- ☒ ORD: David Jewett
- ☒ ORD: John McKernan
- ☐ OW: Karen Gude

Support Personnel

- ☒ Monica Rodia, TSC Executive Secretary

Other Attendees/Invited Speakers

- ☒ Allison Crimmins
- ☒ Kacee Deener
- ☒ Cynthia McOliver
- ☒ Kelly Wright

Action Items

1. TSC members will provide their ideas regarding topics for the science seminar series, *EPA Tribal Science Bulletin*, and sessions at the next TSC face-to-face meeting.
2. Monica Rodia will re-send the EPA climate change resources handout to the TSC members.
3. Monica will obtain information about the Inter-Tribal Youth Climate Leadership Congress to include in the newsletter.
4. Destinee Cooper will send to Monica the outcomes from the recent Region 9 Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC) tribal science workgroup meeting.

Key Discussion Points

Minutes

- Monica expects the support contract for the TSC to be approved soon; minutes from recent TSC teleconferences will be completed when the support contract is in place.

EPA Caucus Update

- The EPA Caucus met briefly, and EPA Representatives were asked for science seminar topics, materials for the *EPA Tribal Science Bulletin*, and potential session topics for the next TSC face-to-face meeting; all TSC members are asked to provide input on these items. The Newsletter and Agenda Development Teams have been meeting to keep moving forward while waiting for contract support. Mike Durglo will be confirming the specific dates and location of the June face-to-face meeting.

Tribal Caucus Update

- The Agenda Development Team has identified several tribal topics of interest to be explored at the next face-to-face meeting, including indoor air, lead and the Dakota Access Pipeline. Curtis Munoz will be able to schedule regular Tribal Caucus meetings when the TSC again has contract support.

TSC Science Webinar

- Allison Crimmins and Lesley Jantarasami provided an overview of *The Impacts of Climate Change on Human Health in the United States: A Scientific Assessment* (Climate and Health Assessment) and presented about EPA resources on climate change and health.
- The Climate and Health Assessment is an assessment of the national burden of health impacts projected under climate change and was written by the interagency U.S. Global Change Research Program, which comprises representatives from several federal agencies.
- The Climate and Health Assessment contains four overarching messages:
 - Climate change is a significant threat to the health of the American people.
 - Climate change exacerbates some existing health threats and creates new public health challenges.
 - Every American is vulnerable to the health impacts associated with climate change.
 - The assessment significantly advances knowledge and increases confidence in that knowledge about the impacts of climate change on public health, better describing the connections between climate impacts on exposure and risk.
- Vulnerability is the predisposition to be adversely affected by climate-related health effects, and some groups are disproportionately vulnerable to these effects. The assessment identifies eight populations disproportionately affected by climate change, including indigenous peoples.
- Although each tribe is unique, many have common characteristics that contribute to increased vulnerability and risk of disproportionate impacts (e.g., location in areas most affected by climate change or in isolated areas, reliance on the environment, limited access to health care services).
- Climate change may affect tribes and indigenous peoples by decreasing access to safe and nutritious food, reducing water availability, increasing health risks associated with poor water and air quality, and increasing the threats to housing and community infrastructure.

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- The full Climate and Health Assessment—including individual chapters, citations, figures and short summaries—is available at health2016.globalchange.gov.
- The TSC members received a PDF with the meeting invitation that details EPA resources on climate change and health, including a climate change impacts website (www.epa.gov/climate-impacts), a clickable map that provides state-by-state climate and health information, an online quiz, a life-stage factsheet, and an extreme heat guidebook that can be used to reach multiple audiences. These were developed following multiple requests at public engagement sessions for tailored communications materials.
- The EPA website also provides a communications kit about populations of concern, including indigenous populations. Each set of materials includes a summary paragraph, key points and short messages, a customizable PowerPoint presentation for each population of concern, high-resolution images that can be used on networking platforms, and a printable factsheet in PDF format. The factsheet is in the process of being translated into the Navajo language.
- The EPA climate change website (www.epa.gov/climatechange) includes additional resources, such as state climate factsheets, a climate indicators report, and a climate impacts and risk analysis. Comments and questions can be emailed to climatehealth@epa.gov.
- Karen Hamernik asked how the Navajo factsheet was developed. Lesley responded that all of the factsheets were developed by contractors, and a translation company was subcontracted for the Navajo translation. Monica asked whether climate staff worked with Region 9 Indian staff on the Navajo factsheet. Lesley replied that the office had just received the factsheet 2 days prior, but she could consult with regional staff to ensure that it is culturally sensitive and accurate.
- Lon Kissinger asked whether the Web resources would be available for the foreseeable future. Lesley explained that they could be downloaded to ensure that interested members continue to have access to them. Some of the resources are available on external websites.

TSC Business Items

TSC 2017 Summer Business Meeting

- The TSC 2017 summer meeting will be co-located with the Region 8 RTOC meeting during the week of June 19.
- The Region 8 RTOC is discussing the location of its meeting, which may no longer be at the Standing Rock Reservation.
- The Agenda Development Team has met twice and is in the process of developing a draft agenda based on the draft Region 8 RTOC agenda so that the two meetings are well coordinated; a potential topic of discussion is tribal health concerns at each life stage.
- The Agenda Development Team plans to meet twice in March.

TSC Newsletter

- Topics for the next *EPA Tribal Science Bulletin* are needed; Theo Willis plans to write a short article about an activity in his region.
- Carol Kriebs suggested that the newsletter focus on how the TSC supports tribes nationwide (from a tribal perspective) and why it is so important for EPA to continue provide support and funding for the TSC.

Each TSC member can provide a paragraph addressing this, and Kristen LeBaron can synthesize them into one cohesive article when the contract is in place. The article describing the TSC's impact during its 15 years could be highlighted on the first page.

- Neil Patterson commented that the TSC is framing science in a different way that includes traditional ecological knowledge. It may be useful to interview those on the National Tribal Operations Committee who established the TSC. The newsletter can highlight the interesting collaboration between EPA and indigenous peoples, which would be timely given the upcoming planned science march on Washington in April. The article can focus on "15 Years of the TSC: Looking Back and Looking Forward" and how the TSC is unique among the EPA tribal partnership groups.
- Lon was not sure what type of focus would resonate with the new administration. Destinee noted that her office's approach is to focus on how actions have increased efficiency because they ultimately have saved federal money and resources.
- Monica will obtain information about the Inter-Tribal Youth Climate Leadership Congress to include in the newsletter.

Announcements

- The Region 9 RTOC held a regional tribal science workgroup meeting in late January. The meeting revealed that Region 9 tribes are not aware of Agency science actions or the actions of other tribes. The tribes that participated would like to share information about their science activities and learn about other tribes' activities. They would like the TSC's help to establish an online location where they can share information (e.g., best climate change adaptation planning contractors, best water quality contractors) and learn about Agency science activities. This type of information is needed at least a year before initiating a Regional Applied Research Effort project. Destinee will send the outcomes from the meeting to Monica.
- An 18-month webinar series about indigenous pathways to community preparedness in response to weather extremes and climate variability is underway. Amber Tilley plans to inform the TSC about each webinar, which generally occurs the third Wednesday of the month.

Next TSC Teleconference

- The next TSC teleconference will be held on March 20 from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. EDT.